

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

March 27, 2003 LB 790

SENATOR LANDIS: Sure.

SENATOR QUANDAHL: ...in addition to the investor-owned systems?

SENATOR LANDIS: Right. There's two reasons. Number one, a municipally-owned system is regulated. It's not unregulated. It is regulated by a local publicly-elected body who's charged with those responsibilities and answerable to its own customers. Secondly, the municipally-owned systems do not operate for profit, so that the ratepayers are not essentially paying for the profit of what is essentially a monopoly. Monopolies that are privately-owned and profit-driven are generally regulated because the regulation is there to make sure that the shareholders' rights don't trump the ratepayers' rights. In a municipally-owned system, those two groups are essentially the same.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Time. Thank you, Senator Quandahl. Senator Quandahl, your...did you wish to speak again, Senator Quandahl?

SENATOR QUANDAHL: If I'm next, I'll continue speaking a little bit here too.

SENATOR CUDABACK: You may continue.

SENATOR QUANDAHL: I guess my question, if I could continue this dialogue with either Senator Landis, or Senator Hartnett too, is that I understand or what I'm hearing is, is that this great global settlement that hasn't quite gelled yet, it's not quite soup but we have all of the ingredients, and I understand all of the players, but I want to make sure, if I could, that I understand who all of the players are. You mentioned Aquila, Kinder Morgan, NorthWestern. Who else is involved or who else will be involved in the negotiations?

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Landis or...

SENATOR LANDIS: What I...I may be overspeaking, because I'll tell you that the group that I was talking to included Doug Clark from MUD, Chris Dibbern from the Power Pool, Gordon